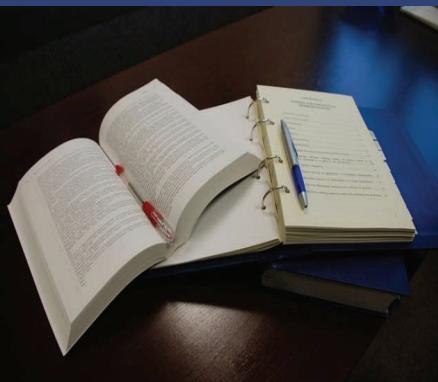


**Total Funding:** \$5 million

**Duration:** October 2009 - September 2013

**Implementer:**  
Deloitte Consulting LLP



A BSA-IDC Global Software Piracy Study found that BiH Information Technology industry has lost \$15 million US dollars in 2008 through software piracy alone.

**Copyright piracy, trademark counterfeiting and patent infringement are discouraging for science, innovation and economy in general.**

**Effective protection of intellectual property is crucial to creating jobs, protecting consumer health, fostering innovation and driving country economic growth.**

## Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection & Trade Capacity (TC) Development

### Challenge

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) seeks to become a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the European Union (EU). Therefore, the protection of intellectual property rights is becoming increasingly important to the government. Private sector, individuals and businesses, on the other hand, are also interested in an effective intellectual property rights protections system that reduces investment risks and fosters innovation. Although BiH has ratified a number of international agreements on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) the current legislation is not compliant with WTO and EU accession requirements.

### USAID Initiative

USAID, through its IPR Protection & TC Development Project, aims to stimulate economic growth and private sector development by improving and strengthening IPR protection aligned with WTO and EU standards. The project has three main objectives:

- 1) increase the ability of the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina (IIP) to meet and enforce WTO and EU standards;
- 2) increase the capacity of other state agencies (i.e. State Veterinary Office, Food Safety Agency, Plant Health Agency, etc.) to facilitate trade; and
- 3) raise public awareness regarding the importance of IPR and trade regulation.

### Results

Although the IPR Project started in October last year, it has conducted several activities towards the achievement of the first objective. An assessment of the information technology and communication (ICT) system in IIP was completed that will help determine the optimal ICT system for IPR granting, document sharing and management processes. The IIP's training and education unit, with the Project's technical assistance, is working to establish a training and education system that will fulfill the needs of the IIP, other public institutions in charge of IPR and interested parties from the private sector.

### Current Activities

The IPR Protection & TC Development Project is assisting the IIP to create IPR councils that will serve as coordination bodies between the IIP and other public and private interested parties. The Project is also designing a public outreach component to promote a general understanding of the importance of intellectual property. In order to target trade capacity development in the private sector, the Project is conducting an assessment that will determine interventions to help SMEs, including those working with USAID's FIRMA, FARMA , and Excellence in Innovation Projects.